

REMARKS

With the entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 3-12 and 14-17, as amended, are currently pending. Claims 2 and 13 have been cancelled, without prejudice. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to incorporate the recitations of claim 2 and 13 thereby making claims 1 and 12 independent versions of allowable claims 2 and 13. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application by the amendment.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. The Applicant has canceled claim 13 making the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection moot.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being clearly obvious by Booth (WO 96/21529) or Tyler (5,461,893) in view of Fornerod (4,772,801.) The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the foregoing Amendment.

The Examiner has stated that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 15-17 are rejected as being dependent on a rejected base claims, but that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 by combining the step of claim 2, thereby making claim 1 an independent version of claim 2. The Applicant has similarly amended independent claim 12 by combining the recitation of claim 13, with revisions to address the indefiniteness rejection thereby making claim 12 an independent version of claim 13. The independent claims 1 and 12 put claims 3-11 and 14-17 in condition for allowance by their dependency. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3-12, and 14-17, as amended.

Response to the Office Action of April 7, 2005
Application: 10/683,533

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1, 3-12, and 14-17, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one-month)